

**[0029] ABSTRACT**

- [0030]** In a signal processing system with an IC having an intrinsic signal provided at a pin of the IC, a first operational function (de-emphasis) for the signal is provided at the pin, and further along in the signal flow path, a second operational function (variable attenuation) for the signal is provided within the IC. An extrinsic signal is switchably coupled to the pin so that the second operational function can be used to operate on the extrinsic signal. The second signal is coupled to the pin at a low source impedance so that when the second signal is switched to be operational, the first operational function is defeated, and the first signal is severely attenuated.
- 10 When the circuit is switched to not couple the second signal to the pin, the coupling path for the second signal and the low source impedance are both removed, thus restoring the first operational function and the first signal at the pin of the IC.